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'Whitewash' author repeats criticisms of Warren Commission report

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Of the Post staff

The Warren Commission report on the death of President Kennedy was called "the result of remarkably poor judgement by experienced men" by the featured speaker at a conference held here Saturday.

Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash," the first book published on the Warren report, and "Whitewash II," which said that "if the Warren Commission proved one thing, it proved that Lee Harvey Oswald did not kill President Kennedy."

"Oswald was the fall guy. He was murdered after he was systematically denied all of his rights," Weisberg charged.

Weisberg's "proof" of Oswald's innocence is based on what he calls the "impossible time scheme" of the commission's story.

The bullet that hit both the president and Governor Connally, according to the commission, has been found. Weisberg said he has had it weighed. Some of bullet's material stayed in Connally's wrist. This material has also been weighed.

The weight of the bullet and the Connally fragments combined weighs more than one bullet could have weighed.

Therefore, Weisberg said, a separate bullet must have hit the governor.

"Oswald's gun was a piece of junk when it was new," Weisberg said.

He also said that the gun took 2.3 seconds to reload.

Since films show that the assassination took only five seconds, and since Oswald, or anyone using the gun attributed to Oswald, could only have fired three of the four shots in that time, there must have been another sniper, Weisberg concluded.

Weisberg said there were "improbabilities in the Commission's time scheme and assumptions that prove Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent."

"Oswald would never have been convicted in a court of law," Weisbergu said.

A former Senate investigator, Weisberg was highly critical of the Warren probe's procedures, and especially of its treatment of Oswald's wife, Marina.

"Marina Oswald should not have been called. She would not have been allowed to testify in any court," he said.

Weisberg said that after she left the hospital where she learned of her husband's death the FBI began "sweating her."

"They took 45 typewritten pages of testimony from her right after she became a widow," Weisberg said.

"It's subhuman," he charged.

Weisberg said that the capture of the "real murderers" is not his primary concern.

"What I want is a judicial determination of fact; I want this before a court of law," Weisberg said.

Weisberg said he did not want Kennedy buried with the "dubious epitaph of a fake's inquest."

Saturday's conference on the Warren Commission was sponsored by the Wisconsin Methodist Student Movement and by the Wesley foundation of Milwaukee.

Also participating in a panel of inquiry were David Walther, President of the American Civil Liverties Union here and former school board candidate, and Milwaukee Journal reporter Mark Hopkins.

About 25 students attended.